

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROMOTING FAIR AND EFFECTIVE POLICING THROUGH RESEARCH ACT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2020

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Promoting Fair and Effective Policing Through Research Act.

We are a nation in mourning. Our shared anguish over the loss of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Rayshard Brooks, Botham Jean and countless other black men and women at the hands of police has spurred a growing chorus of Americans to demand not only justice, but meaningful and lasting change.

Cities across the nation are grappling with how to respond. A number of officials have committed to sweeping reductions in police department funding and embraced a move toward innovative approaches to providing public safety. Others are calling for more resources for police departments and advocating for procedural reforms.

I am heartened that we, as a nation, are engaging in a substantive discourse about the role of policing in American society. This day is long overdue and has come at too high a cost, but we must seize this opportunity. We must dig deep to examine how the history and culture of policing in America has brought us to this tumultuous place. And, in our search for solutions, we must be guided by evidence grounded in data and scientific research.

First and foremost, we must have a national database on police use of force, and I am glad to see this included in the Justice in Policing Act. We must explore the legacy of policing and the root cause of the racial disparities we observe. We must assess the organizational influences on policing—such as recruitment, training, and performance evaluation. We must examine promising practices for promoting accountability and fostering community trust. We must study the influence of technology and big data on vulnerable populations and work to root out any biases. Finally, we must establish meaningful partnerships between law enforcement and researchers to empower jurisdictions to tailor proven solutions to meet their needs and the needs of the communities they serve.

The bill I am introducing today directs the National Science Foundation (NSF) to fund social and behavioral research on policing policies, including the causes, consequences, and mitigation of police violence. NSF is directed to support collaborative partnerships between social science researchers, law enforcement agencies, and civil society organizations. The bill also provides for a National Academies study to identify research gaps related to law enforcement policies, collect promising practices, and make recommendations for advancing research and implementation of proven solutions.

This bill would also address research and standards for biometric identification technologies, including facial recognition technologies. If we allow inaccuracies or biases to persist in these systems, then when deployed in high-impact situations, like decision making in the criminal justice system, those biases will disproportionately harm communities of color. Important research and testing at the National Institute of Standards and Technology has already helped identify the biases and improve the accuracy of these systems. This bill directs NIST to expand upon these efforts and focus on new areas in need of testing, such as capture devices. This bill will also help lead to standardization of methodologies and practices to eliminate biases across the industry and develop guidance to inform law enforcement procurement decisions.

Importantly, science and standardization are only two pieces in the biometric puzzle. We need a national privacy law to limit the risk of abuse from biometric identification technologies. I call on my colleagues in the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the House Committee on the Judiciary to take up this issue with haste.

Finally, the bill leverages science at the Department of Homeland Security to support the reduction of excessive use of force and lethal use of force by law enforcement. There have been too many fatal encounters with not only state and local police across the country, but also with Federal law enforcement, including the U.S. Park Police. This bill requires the Under Secretary for Science and Technology to consult with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers to support research and data analysis to improve training, policies, and practices for Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement officials. The Department's research and support for risk assessment tools can assist in the development of guidelines and best practices for policing and police training, including how to mitigate racial bias and minimize the use of excessive force.

I urge my colleagues to join me and help move this legislation forward into law.

HONORING THE CLASS OF 2020 AS IOWANS OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, in honor of all of this year's graduates, I am proud to recognize the Class of 2020 across Iowa's Third Congressional District as our Iowans of the Week. As we near the end of the semester for thousands of students, I ask that you all join me in taking a moment to acknowledge their accomplishments over the course of the year and congratulate them on this achievement as they move forward in their lives and toward their next endeavors.

Unfortunately, many of the traditions and ceremonies our graduates would typically look forward to have been cancelled. The pageantry and tradition of turned tassels, pomp and circumstance, and the bestowing of the degree or the diploma will sadly not come this year. And just as this pandemic has denied graduates these moments, so too has it compounded the daily challenges of life these students have faced.

As distance learning has become the new norm, these students have developed a whole new appreciation for the academic, social, and emotional supports that have helped them along the way. While these unfortunate circumstances have clouded a typically joyous time of year, it has been remarkable to see students rise to the challenge, adapt, and learn with little time to plan. They transitioned to online and distance learning and were able to come out on the other side more resilient as they finish the final days of their final year.

Iowa's teachers and students have been innovative and have stepped up to support their local communities, showing just what we are capable of in the face of adversity. Some students are even working around the clock to produce face shields for health care workers, as well as creating masks for friends and family.

The students of the Class of 2020 deserve special recognition this week for their willingness to forego many of the most cherished traditions of their final year in order to help the greater community. These students represent the heart of Iowa's communities and will be the next generation of leaders who will still be faced with the problems of today later down the road.

I am grateful for every member of the Class of 2020 who has completed a great milestone in their lives to become a better and more educated citizen who will contribute great things to our society we have yet to even think of. So please allow me to express my deep appreciation and thanks to every graduating student in Iowa's Third Congressional District by honoring them today as Iowans of the Week.

HONORING RUDOLPH HYDE AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2020

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Pastor Dr. Rudolph M. Hyde is a native of the Caribbean Island of Jamaica who migrated to the United States of America and attended Polk State College; graduating with a degree in Computer Network Engineering. He was also awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Ministry from Isaiah University.

Recognizing and nurturing the anointing and calling upon his life, Pastor Rudolph was ordained as an Elder and has served in various

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leadership positions throughout the years. His love for ministry led him to start the Faith Temple Apostolic Ministries International church in Eagle Lake, Florida in March 2014, and was ordained as the Pastor. He is supported by his wife Marlene and four children.

The church in Eagle Lake is a multi-cultural ministry serving the whole individual regardless of challenges or limitations. He believes there is nothing too difficult for God and believes that a voice in the community is a voice for hope and identity. Through the platform of his ministry, he has opened opportunities to work and help in the community by addressing the needs of the people. Over the years, the ministry has been able to provide food, clothing and funds to the general public through the Feed the People Program.

For the last 6 years, the ministry has hosted a free public annual event known as Jamaica Day, bringing Caribbean culture, food and music to the community of Polk County which draws in hundreds of people annually.

With his passion for giving back, Pastor Hyde also founded Hyde's Academy in Eagle Lake to provide Computer and CPR training to the general community with the American Heart Association's support. He believes that there is nothing impossible that the human mind cannot accomplish if we work and unite together.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JEFFREY L. CURTIS AS HE RECEIVES THE JOHN B. BARNWELL AWARD

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Jeffrey L. Curtis as he receives the 2019 John B. Barnwell Award. Dr. Curtis's commitment to advancing the healthcare of our nation's veterans is worthy of commendation.

After receiving his medical degree from the Georgetown University School of Medicine, Dr. Curtis completed his clinical residency at the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center and spent two years as a Clinical Immunology Fellow at the National Institute on Aging, NIH. Following residency, Dr. Curtis trained in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine (PCCM) at the University of California San Francisco, where he joined the faculty at the San Francisco VA. Dr. Curtis continued his work with veterans at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System, where he served as Chief in the PCCM Section and as scientific director of a Research Enhancement Award Program center in tobacco-induced lung diseases. Dr. Curtis has held leadership roles in several COPD trials and continues to lead groundbreaking research efforts, including the ongoing SPIROMICS and COPDGene studies. Furthermore, Dr. Curtis is the Associate Editor of the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, is the past-Chair of the American Thoracic Scientific Assembly on Allergy, Immunology, and Inflammation, and is a current professor at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Receiving the prestigious John B. Barnwell Award exemplifies Dr. Curtis's continued commitment to scientific discovery and improving

health outcomes for our nation's veterans. The award, which represents the Clinical Science Research and Development Service's highest honor within the Department of Veterans Affairs, recognizes senior VHA investigators who have achieved international acclaim for their clinical research accomplishments and have led clinical research endeavors that have advanced the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and disorders in the veteran population. Undoubtedly, Dr. Curtis is a deserving recipient of this award. He is internationally recognized as a leading researcher in the field of pulmonary disease and has led a number of major clinical trials and programs that have advanced the study of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and other lung disorders. Dr. Curtis has dedicated his career to clinical research and continues to transform the quality of care for veterans nationwide.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Jeffrey Curtis as he receives the John B. Barnwell Award. We thank him for his meaningful work and wish him continued success in the years ahead.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ELIZABETH "BETSY" GILBERTSON

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2020

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to pay tribute to Elizabeth "Betsy" Gilbertson, a dear friend who we lost much too soon. Though she waged a fierce battle, Betsy recently lost her fight with ovarian cancer.

Betsy dedicated her professional life and much of her personal time to ensuring that everyone has access to affordable, quality health care. From the earliest days of her career, Betsy combined her passion for advocacy with that of her belief that quality, affordable healthcare was a right, not a privilege. As a member of the Connecticut Nurses Association and District 1199, New England SEIU, Betsy represented her fellow nurses in collective bargaining. She also led a non-profit women's health center before joining UNITE HERE HEALTH, a Taft-Hartley labor management trust fund that provides health benefits that offer high quality, affordable health care to their participants, where she held a number of leadership roles prior to her last position as Chief of Strategy.

Betsy's dedication to quality, affordable healthcare extended far beyond her professional career. She served on National Quality Forum Task Forces on patient safety and ambulatory care measures; was founder as well as Chair/Co-Chair of the Health Services Coalition, a labor management organization that contracts with hospitals and advocates for public policies that improve quality health care, affordability, and access in Nevada; and was a Board member of the National Committee for Quality Assurance for five years. In more recent years, she continued her good work serving on the Lown Institute Advisory Council and the federal Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee.

For me, Betsy was not only been an invaluable resource on healthcare issues, but a

cherished friend. It is a friendship that dates back to a time before our lives took us to Washington, D.C. Betsy and her husband, John, lived in my childhood neighborhood of Wooster Square in New Haven, Connecticut for many years—John and my husband, Stan, teaching together at Yale University long before we met. Betsy and I were kindred spirits and I will be forever grateful to have had her friendship all these years.

I am heartbroken at Betsy's loss and extend my deepest sympathies to her husband, John Wilhelm, as well as their children Tom and Vinnie; and their three grandchildren. I, like so many of those who had the opportunity to know her, consider myself fortunate to have called her my friend and will continue to be inspired by her memory. Betsy was an extraordinary woman whose passion and dedication touched countless lives—this world is just a bit dimmer without her in it.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARY H. MCCOMBS

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2020

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor World War II veteran and Rialto community leader Mary H. McCombs.

A graduate of University of Redlands, Mary began her decades of community service as a social worker with the Riverside County Welfare Department. Shortly after President Roosevelt's signing of the Navy Women's Reserve Act into law in 1942, she answered the call to serve her country and enlisted in the U.S. Navy WAVES program.

Mary's tenure in the WAVES program resulted in travel to New York, Norco, California, and the San Francisco Bay where she trained to serve the Navy in a medical capacity. Until the end of World War II, she was stationed at the Naval Hospital on Treasure Island where her primary duties involved tracking all the admissions and discharges for the hospital.

Upon discharge from the Navy, Mary married Ray McCombs and moved to Rialto, California, where she served as First Lady of Rialto from 1952 to 1954. A loving mother of five children, she always sought opportunities to improve the lives of others. In 1962 she returned to work for the San Bernardino County Adoption Service, where she placed hundreds of children into loving homes throughout the county. Mary's beloved husband sadly passed in 1983.

Mary continued to remain active in the community and with her local church. She was a member of the American Association of University Women, the Rialto Symphony Guild and other civic organizations. In June 1995, she served on the task force to build the Rialto Senior Center and subsequently served on their board. Within education, Mary contributed to the establishment of the Morrow-McCombs Memorial Lecture Series at Cal State University, San Bernardino, which had a focus on fostering better understanding among Christian, Jewish, and Muslim people.

An avid traveler, Mary visited sites around the world and accomplished many feats in her travels, such as climbing the Great Pyramid of